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9030 Forestview Lane N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-494-5983

MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Newsletter Editor: Pat Ruffing
Research: Mary Moyle, Rosie Gruidl, & Karen Brajdich
Web page designer: Steve Briggs
<http://www.maplegrovmnhistory.org>

Purpose: To collect and preserve information and artifacts and to educate the community of the history of Maple Grove, MN.



Open House:

The Maple Grove History Museum hosts an open house the 2nd Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Monthly Meeting:

The third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at the History Museum. Anyone with an interest in history is welcome to join us!

Quarterly Newsletter:



Music Subject

FEB 2023– NEWSLETTER - HOW DID YOU ENJOY MUSIC AT HOME? SING? PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? LISTEN TO A RECORD PLAYER OR RADIO? SEND US YOUR STORY

History on Display:

- ◆ Ox Cart site and territorial downtown Maple Grove: 15310 Territorial Rd (0.7 mi. w. of Fernbrook Lane N. Maple Grove, MN.)
- ◆ Pierre Bottineau House : Elm Creek Park Reserve: 12400 James Deane Parkway, Maple Grove, MN.
- ◆ 4 History Display Cases at M.G. Government Center: 12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy N.

Election of officers : October



Join us

Invite your family and MG. volunteers and history lovers!

December 15th
6:00 p.m. for food (bring a dish to share) and fun!

A Special Christmas on the Farm



For Grace and Henry Radintz, growing up on a farm in Maple Grove is a fond memory, a red plaid scarf, and a wonderful photo of them on the December 1956 cover of "Successful Farming"; a magazine printed in Des Moines, Iowa for farm families to learn how to make money, save time, and help in the farming business.

In June of 2022, Grace and Henry visited the Maple Grove History Museum at 9030 Forestview Lane North and noticed their photo on display; they willingly posed for a "then and now" snapshot. How did they get chosen for the magazine cover? They are not sure, but shared the following family story.

In 1887, their great grandfather Ferdinand Radintz moved from Wayzata and built a farm house in Maple Grove. Their grandparents Henry and Elise Schaefer Radintz built a house 1/4 of a mile west of the original homestead (Rural Route 3), currently 101st Ave. N. These properties, and several surrounding properties, the Radintz family called home, until Highway 610, through the northern part of Maple Grove, took the property. Today, a lonely shed is all that remains where Ted and Alice Tonn Radintz raised their children: Bob, Grace, Paul, Henry, and Dick.

In 1952, their parents, Ted and Alice, decided it was time to replace the drafty old two story farm home; they heated using their abundant oak firewood, with a new warmer house. The original farm house was taken down, but the kitchen was moved up a hill about 30-40 feet away, so their mother could continue to cook meals for the family. Five members of the family slept in the garage during the new construction, but Bob and the hired man slept in the white-washed chicken brooder house, until the cold Thanksgiving Day in November 1952, when the new house was habitable!

According to Henry, "Dad recycled long before it was popular. He carefully removed and preserved much of the siding from the old house to use as the subfloor in the new house." Years later, Henry found the old farm house door, weathered, but with its wavy glass panes still fully intact, stored in the granary, and used it for his lake cabin door.

Grace recalled that in June of 1952, there were two days of terrible storms. The basement of the new house had been excavated, and maybe the cement blocks had been laid, when the first night of the storm began. The family was huddled in the old kitchen. Paul and Grace were perched on the old enameled cook stove, when the wind caused a brick to fall off the chimney, missing Paul's head by inches.

The second evening of the storm, the family used the milk house as a shelter. That night Uncle Alfred arrived from his nearby farm and announced to their dad "Ted, my barn is down."



How was this family chosen by the Successful Farming Magazine for a photo-opt when their childhood, was according to Grace was "school, church, 4-H and a wonderful family"? Grace and Henry speculate that it was because their dad was a progressive thinking farmer, with a hired man; who knew George Roadfeldt, the U of M agricultural director for Hennepin County Extension for 25 years, and because their mother Alice led the 4-H group "Weaver Beavers". Mr. Roadfeldt knew that Successful Farming was looking for farm families to be a part of a Successful Farming magazine group.

The Radintz siblings cannot remember the exact date that the staged photography event happened at the farm. It was probably in December of 1955, the year before their photo appeared on the cover of the magazine. Grace remembers that the Christmas tree was up, and that she received a red plaid scarf to wear, which she still has somewhere in a box of stored treasures. The magazine provided the snow saucers featured in the photo. Paul remembers that staging inside their fairly new home included, the magazine having a company measure and install new valences over the living room picture window and dining room table window, as part of the staging.

When Henry Radintz tried to see if he could acquire the prints of the photos of Christmas 1956 from Successful Farming, he discovered their archives had been destroyed in a flood. So for Grace and Henry Radintz growing up on a farm in Maple Grove is a fond memory, a red plaid scarf, and a wonderful photo on the December 1956 cover of "Successful Farming" and the "then and now" photo taken at the Maple Grove History Museum.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS THROUGH THE AGES

As a child I never really thought about Christmas traditions. Growing older, when the overwhelming sense of anticipation and excitement had passed, I began to appreciate that our Christmas celebration was the combination of French, German and Swedish traditions passed down through generations. What I experienced as a child was years, possibly hundreds of years, in the making, and in that sense, it was quintessentially American.



Christmas and the branches allowed to settle. Then lights, ornaments, and finally tinsel were added. Each strand of tinsel draping unobstructed and placed to catch the light. It was carefully and I might say lovingly decorated with attention to every detail. Each year my mother would reglitter the ball on which the angel perched on the top of the tree. Light strings were supplemented with clip-on or twist-on candle holders (that were lit only briefly with all present). The candle holders dated from the past century, as did the tradition of bringing in the pine boughs. When only the tree lights were on, it was dazzling.

The Christmas season began early in our house, not the shopping or even the decorations, but the preparation. And, while I say early, I don't mean before Halloween (God forbid) or even Thanksgiving, but in the early weeks of December. There were dozens of Christmas cards to write; for some, the one annual contact so a brief recap of the year had to be written out on the card, specific to the party receiving it – often living half a continent away.

Next on the agenda was baking. (Now we're getting to the good stuff!) Dozens of batches of cookies had to be prepared, all from scratch. Not just for the cookie jar, alas, but for tins that would be delivered to family and friends as the holiday approached. Krum Kager, Peppernodder (peppernuts), rosettes, sugar cookies, ginger snaps, and gingerbread – all based on recipes handed down lovingly and brought out each season. My favorite, of course, were the delicate Krum Kager because I was allowed to eat the "out takes" and, oh boy, who doesn't love the way "the cookie crumbles."

A couple of weeks before Christmas the next major undertaking – and I do mean major – was selecting the tree. An artificial tree was never considered. The aroma, the grandeur, the artistry embodied in a living tree was central to our family's Christmas experience.

The outings to buy the perfect Christmas tree were always demanding. It had to be bigger and fuller than the tree the previous year. Everyone was a critic and an expert. One year my father and I had to go back and buy a second tree because the first one was "not full enough." (No, tree lots don't take exchanges!)

The tree was brought in the house one week before

Approaching the big night when the "chubby and plump right jolly old elf" would arrive, Mom began the preparation of the Christmas Eve smorgasbord complete with lutefisk, herring, smoked salmon, Swedish potato sausage and assortment of cheeses and vegetables. Preparing lutefisk requires soaking and draining it over several hours to take out the salt brine preservative until it is rendered a grey gelatinous and, to me, an entirely unappetizing entity. But Dad, true to his heritage, loved it.

When the smorgasbord was devoured, the dishes were washed, dried and put away. (Could they delay opening presents any longer, I asked myself. Yes! They could.) Mom's family tradition had us assemble around the Christmas tree, basking in its light alone, and each of us would read, recite, or play an instrument – clarinet and flute. (As I played drums, an exemption was made). Between the reading of the Christmas story, reciting of poems, and playing of instruments, we sang the classic Christmas carols, always ending with *Silent Night, Holy Night*.

Finally, presents would be distributed and each, in turn, would open one gift (would you hurry it up already?) No, each item had to be oohed and aahed over.

When the gifts were finally opened and just as it was time to settle in and enjoy all the shiny new toys, off we went to the candle light service!

Christmas morning would bring yet more gifts in our stockings (always including an orange or tangerine) and all the packages Santa had dropped off in the night.

Wishing everyone the happiest of holidays as you enjoy your own unique and very special family traditions.

~ George "Bill" Bergquist

Christmas Memories by Karen Brajdich



Here is a photo of Christmas morning in the living room of our St. Cloud house

Left to right: Brother David, sister Valarie, me and my little sister, Diane. We've just opened our presents, as evidenced by the Christmas wrapping paper scattered across the floor. There's a Christmas decoration on the Silvertone television set and our Christmas tree.

Now, I think back to those young days... Every year, my great Grandma and Grandpa Tuszyk, in Milwaukee, WI. sent Mom and Dad a package that contained a Christmas card, \$100 and Christmas candy. It wasn't just your run-of-the-mill Christmas candy. It was special. Christmas morning I would find a giant candy cane, ribbon candy, chocolates and gingerbread cookie with a Santa decal on the front. That \$100, it went a long way in those days. It paid for presents, candy, Christmas dinner and if there was any left, it was tucked away for a rainy day.

The Christmas tree. Dad was particular about his trees. Through the 1950s and 1960s we had a real Christmas tree, always a Norway pine with long needles. No flocking. That would be a break with tradition.

Dad placed it in front of the window so all could see that dazzling tree from inside or outside. He sawed a fresh cut off the bottom of the trunk, put it in the tree stand and filled it with water. Oh, the smell of pine scent in the living room... From that point on, we kept the tree "watered" until we took it down four weeks later, around January 7. Decorating the Christmas tree was exciting, an art and a whole day affair. The routine was the same every year. Dad brought out the cardboard box of Christmas lights and decorations.

First came the Christmas lights and the angel on the tree top. Dad, standing on a chair at the top of the

tree, attached the angel and weaved the lights around and around the tree, all the way to the bottom. He fastened each socket to the a tree bow. Then, we kids screwed-in the 5-watt colored bulbs of red, green, yellow, blue and orange, being sure to "space" like-colored bulbs away from each other.

Next, the Christmas ornaments and decorations were added. "Remember," Dad would say "place the big ornaments near the bottom and the small ornaments at the top." The hand-made decorations we kids made at school were put on next.

The final touch was the tinsel. The tinsel was saved and re-used year-to-year. Dad had a handy way to keep the tinsel in good shape. He draped it over newspaper sections.

Putting tinsel on the tree was an art and under the discerning eye of Dad, it took patience and concentration. We carefully draped one strand at a time over each branch and bow to get the right affect up and down the whole tree. And, at dusk, when we turned off the lamps in the living room and plugged in the lights on the Christmas tree, it glowed with colored lights. The tinsel made it a shimmering piece of magic

Grandma Bertha Gruidl with her 5 grandsons Richard, Al, Jim, Terry, Jerry and my husband Jack.



Bertha Rohlfs/ Kobow/Gruidl was born in Maple Grove MN. She was born on property, now the site of Rush Creek Elementary School, near Weaver Lake in section 18. Her family immigrated from German and farmed in Maple Grove. Bertha's descendants, even down to the great great grandchildren, still celebrate Christmas with many of the traditions her family brought –specially many German family food traditions. Every Christmas the Gruidl family head to Northeast Minneapolis to get the German delicacies: kolaches, blood sausage, cabbage rolls, head cheese, herring, goose and turkey, poppy seed bread and lots of beer.
By Rose Gruidl

OSSEO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebrating
Past, Present



100 years of Faith:
and Future

Sunday September 18, 2022

In the early 1900s there was a small band of practicing Christians, who once more proved God's promise "to be in the midst" where even two or three would gather in His name. Beginning about 1910, these people met in each other's homes on Sunday evenings and worshiped in "Prayer Meetings" to replace the formal church service many of them were accustomed to before they moved to Osseo. This early group included: Mr. and Mrs. Bert Crandall, Mr. and Mrs. Harder, Mrs. Melissa Spence, Misses Clara, Cora and Agatha Krueger, Miss Maude Purdy and Mr. Chauncy Pryor.

In the fall of 1911, Rev. McCaslin came to Osseo to organize a Sunday School for the unchurched people in the community. At the advice of Al Hechtman, a mason, contact was made with Mrs. J.E. Curtis, assisted by Hatie Larsen Heesen and Mrs. Murray Carpenter, to plan for a Sunday School. Others who worked diligently with the Sunday School included: Mrs. Andrew Olson, Mrs. Charles Killmer, and her daughters Mary and Lillian, and Mrs. Louis Schwappach and her daughters, Elsie and Edna. Mrs. Charles Setzler worked with the choir. Other families attending included: Setzlers, Dexters, Spences, Curtis, Savages, Larsens, Getchells, Wadsworths, Heesens, Neddersons and Henricksens.

Meetings were in the homes until attendance grew too large. They then moved into the Masonic Hall on Central Avenue. Attendance and interest grew with the guidance of Rev. S.W. Matson, Rev. Boswell, Rev. Runlet, Rev. John Walker, Rev. Volkenant and W.E. Clark, a student from Macalester College. The need for a church was soon recognized. In 1920 plans to build a church were made. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spence donated land for the structure. Ground for the new building was broken on



May 26, 1922. Mr. McNeil of Elk River was the contractor.

The building committee consisted of Mrs. Archie Champlin, Mrs. Otto Setzler, Mrs. A. Dexter, Mr. Iver Henrickson and Mr. Andrew Olson.

The church located at Broadway and 2nd Avenue, was dedicated November 5, 1922. Rev. Henry Soltau presided at the dedication service with Bishop Mitchell giving the morning address and Rev. John Walker the evening address.

Church enrollment continued to increase, and it became necessary to enlarge the church building. During Rev. Al Toews' tenure, the cornerstone of the new building was laid on September 23, 1956. Dr. Paul Lewis, the Minneapolis District Superintendent presided. Rev. Ralph High became pastor in 1960 and the new church was dedicated on January 8, 1961. Bishop Otto Halland Rev. Paul J. Snyder, District Superintendent were in attendance. The cost of the new Sanctuary was \$148,500.00

The following pastors served the church from 1922 through 2022

- 1922–1924 Rev. W.E. Clark 1966 - 1967 Rev. Richard Tice
- 1924–1925 Dr. Carl Anderson 1967 - 1977 Rev. J. Schoeppler
- 1925–1934 Rev. H.J. Soltau 1977 – 1984 Rev. K. Wellman
- 1934–1942 Rev. E.B. Cooney 1984 – 1986 Rev. Mark Johnson
- 1942–1945 Rev. U.E. Dahle 1986 – 1992 Dr. Howard Krueger
- 1946–1948 Rev. David McGuire 1992 – 2013 Rev. Jack Rehnberg
- 1948–1949 Dr. Irving E. Putman 2013 – 2018 Dr. Woojae Im
- 1950–1951 Rev. Thomas Payne 2018 Rev. Bryce Johnson
- 1951–1954 Rev. Gordon Lund 2018 - 2019 Rev. Jeff Utecht
- 1954–1955 Dr. Irving E. Putman 2019 – 2022 Dr. Wesley Gabel
- 1955–1960 Rev. Al Toews 2022 – present Pastor Jennifer
- 1960–1966 Rev. Ralph High Spickelmier

Information provided by the Church's 100 Anniversary celebration booklet

For 25 years, the Maple Grove Community Center “has been bringing people together for activities & programs, support & services, and of course, just to have fun” according to their Facebook page.

Lisa Jost, retired manager of the Maple Grove Community Center was the Maple Grove Days Parade Grand Marshal- July 14, 2022. According to her interview with Alicia Miller of the Osseo, Maple Grove Press “The building’s construction began in the spring of 1996. The ice arena opened Dec. 31, 1996, followed by a phased opening of the meeting rooms and indoor playground the summer following (June/July), and ending with the pool opening in October 1997.”

The community center’s 25th anniversary is important. “Being able to recognize the facility that has become the ‘Heart of the Community,’ a gathering place for millions of people is very special for me,” she said. The most memorable moment of her career happened in 2005, when President George W. Bush visited the community center. City staff was informed 7 to 10 days before President Bush’s visit. The staff at the community center worked to turn the gym into an auditorium, and, the building and grounds were spruced up.

“It was a great honor to host the leader of our country at the Maple Grove Community Center,” she said.”



President George W. Bush Participates in Conversation on Medicare

White House photo by Eric Draper

Maple Grove Community Center
Maple Grove, Minnesota June 17, 1995 11:07 A.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for the warm day, too. (Laughter.) It's good to be back in the great state of Minnesota. .. I think you're going to find this to be an interesting discussion we're about to have about Medicare. We're here to say to the seniors who live here in Minnesota... that Medicare has been

strengthened, reformed and modernized, and we hope you take a look at it -- the new programs, because it's going to benefit a lot of people....really want to thank the folks here at Maple Grove for letting us come by. It's not easy to host the President. (Laughter.) It turns out his entourage is quite big these days. (Laughter.) But I really want to -- thank you for letting us do this. I think you're going to find this will help the seniors who use this fantastic facility. It will help them at least understand there's new options available to them when it comes to making sure there's a prescription drug benefit available to them. ...I want to thank Lisa Jost, who is the manager of this fantastic facility. ..So what you're about to see is government in the process of educating folks about what's available...

THE PRESIDENT: Live, work, pray and play, good. Well, that's what happens here at Maple Grove Community Center, isn't that right, Kris?

Listen, thank you for having us. Kris is the senior -- what are you -- what do you do?

MS. ORLUCK: Mr. President, I'm the senior coordinator here at the Maple Grove Park and Recreation Department.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. It's quite a varied facility, isn't it? You said you go from pre-K to a senior center.

MS. ORLUCK: That's correct, from preschool to teen centers to senior centers.

THE PRESIDENT: Great. And tell me about -- you develop -- what's your job, what do you do?

MS. ORLUCK: What I do here at the community center is I'm in charge of developing the senior programs that happen around here. So it may be a fitness class, it may be a social recreation program, a trip, it may be an educational class, like a computer class, or a great decisions discussion group, or it's a wellness and health program, where we bring people in to educate them about various topics on wellness and health, and Medicare is one of those topics that we cover.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, you see why I've asked Kris to come up here. Anybody who's interested in doing their duty, working at a senior center, pay attention to what Kris is going to tell you. See, she understands if part of the deal is educate people, there's no better subject than a modern Medicare bill that's going to help a lot of people with their prescription drugs.

Kris and I were talking backstage. She is all fully prepared to use the time she has allotted with the seniors to say, here's what's available. Isn't that right?

MS. ORLUCK: That's correct. We're currently working with the local Social Security Administration to provide education and also opportunities to register so they'll be able to meet one on one with individuals, and just come in as a group and hear about the changes and how it affects them ...

<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2005/06/images/20050617-4>



Here is my short story. The Klapperich Family moved into our Maple Grove house in December of 1971. For our first Christmas in Maple Grove we were a family of four as my younger brother was not born until January of 1972. We celebrated Christmas in the basement as the house was not totally completed. Mom and Dad decorated the basement. Our gifts were definitely home construction related with a doll house and plastic hard hat for me and Lincoln Logs for my brother Brian. By Christmas 1972 we had moved upstairs and we celebrated our last Christmas in the house in 2016. Our Maple Grove house was the site of many wonderful family Christmas's.



Linda Klapperich's Album

A large, two-room school was on the shore of Rush Creek and Territorial Road. One room was for 1st through 4th grades, and the other was for 5th to 8th grades. Two teachers who taught there at one time were Miss Faye Jones and Miss Harriet Miller. Here is a bit of personal charm. When Jim Bouley was a little boy, his parents moved to Maple Grove near Rush Creek. Now in November these two teachers already had made plans for the Christmas program, so there was no place left for Jim on the entertainment sheet. Being small of stature Jim was placed in a large cardboard box and played jack-in-the-box every so often during the program. It was a special fete

Maple Grove Hallmark Store Shuttered

In case you missed it: The Maggie's Hallmark store in Maple Grove has closed up shop for good. MAPLE GROVE, MN — "Thank you for your patronage these past 28 years. We say goodnight for the last time. Peace." Those were the words posted on the Maggie's Hallmark Facebook page as the store closed up shop for good. The store, located at Maple Grove's shopping center on County Road 30, was officially shuttered March 30. Hallmark told the Maple Grove Voice that the location was considered independently owned. William Bornhoft, Patch Staff posted on Monday April 24, 2017

Will Christmas greeting cards delivered by the U.S. Postal Service become a memory of Christmas past? Before the digital and face time technologies, and the days of long distance toll telephone calls, reaching family and friends especially rural families, was a much anticipated connection with loved ones for holidays and special occasions. According to *New York-based writer John Hanc is a long time Smithsonian contributor* the following information was gleaned:

In 1915, a Kansas City-based company started by Joyce Hall published its first holiday card. The Hall Brothers company now Hallmark made folded Christmas cards to send in an envelope. From the 1930s-1950s red-suited Santas and brilliant stars of Bethlehem with messages inside, became enormously popular. Hallmark and its competitors reached out for new ideas to sell the cards :famous artists were commissioned to design them like Salvador Dali, Grandma Moses and Norman Rockwell, who designed 32 Christmas cards for Hallmark. The most popular one was the image of three cherubic angels, two with bowed heads in prayer and "The third peers out from the card with big, baby blue eyes, her halo slightly askew..." "God bless you, keep you and love you...at Christmastime and always," reads the sentiment. First published in 1977, that card—still part of Hallmark's collection—has sold 34 million copies."



Maybe the U.S. Post Office producing the first Christmas stamp in 1962 added to the popularity of Christmas cards. It depicted a wreath, two candles and had the words "Christmas, 1962." "According to the Post Office, the department ordered the printing of 350 million of these 4-cent, green and white stamps. However, says Daniel Piazza, chief curator of philately for the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, "they underestimated the demand and ended up having to do a special printing." *New York-based writer John Hanc is a long time Smithsonian contributor. He also writes regularly for the New York Times, Newsday, and Brain & Life magazine.*

ANGEL OF HOPE / FRIENDS OF THE ANGEL



The Angel of Hope, which is located in the Maple Grove Arboretum at 9400 Fernbrook Lane, is a very special place for grieving families to gather. The word "Hope" is embedded in the wings of the angel and hope is what many families take away from visiting. It is a calm and peaceful place where people can sit on the wall,

look at more than 500 remembrance bricks, and know they are not alone. It is a place to remember, and celebrate their angels' lives.

The more than 140 Angel of Hope statues were inspired by Richard Paul Evans best-selling book, "The Christmas Box." Currently, there are seven angel statues in Minnesota. The Maple Grove angel is number 20 which is sculpted on her base. The Angel of Hope was donated by a grieving grandmother and is owned by the City of Maple Grove.

The angel was dedicated on a cold and rainy day on May 6, 2001. The day looked like it would be a total rainout, but when the time came for the dedication, the rain stopped and a lone eagle soared above our heads. It was felt by many that our angels had taken care of us and continue to watch over us.

There is an annual candlelight memorial service held every December 6 at 7 p.m. at every angel across the country. Hundreds of people come out in the cold in remembrance of their loved ones. The City of Maple Grove plans this event with a short ceremony and provides candles to all attendees.

The original patio, where the remembrance bricks were and the angel stood, was built by a grieving family who had lost four children. In 2016 it was recognized that there was only room for 40 more bricks and an expansion was completed in 2017 to what it looks like today. There are still many sponsorship opportunities available.

In 2007, a volunteer group called the Friends of the Angel was formed and became a nonprofit organization in 2014. The purpose of this volunteer group was to provide more events surrounding the angel. In addition to planning annual dedications and remembrance events, our

committee members and volunteers have developed life-long friendships through our common connection of loss. The Friends of the Angel work in partnership with the City of Maple Grove's Park and Rec Department.

The Friends of the Angel plan two brick dedications a year. In the spring, held on the first Sunday of June and fall, held on the first Sunday of November. Approximately 40 bricks are dedicated annually. The brick dedications consist of a short ceremony with the reading of their loved one's names and provided a white flower to place at the base of the angel in remembrance. Brick sponsors are also provided a copy of "The Christmas Box" book as well as an angel coin. These ceremonies are very moving and give families a chance to meet other families who are also grieving a loss. Each brick has a story of a life and of heart break.

Remembrance bricks can be purchased through the Maple Grove Park and Rec Department for a cost of \$125 and they are installed two times a year.

The Friends of the Angel also hosts an annual Walk to Remember which is held the first Saturday of May beginning at 10am. The walk starts at the Angel, and people stroll along the trails as far as they wish. There is a short ceremony where over 100 names of loved ones are read. Inspirational music is played throughout the day by a DJ as well as children's crafts and snacks. Participants are able to submit a photo, poem or object of their loved ones to have a sign posted along the trail. The walk is the only event where a fee is charged. Many of the same families participate each year.

The Angel of Hope statue unites our community and offers hope to grieving families. Maple Grove has so many beautiful parks throughout the city and thankfully, our grieving community has a peaceful place for remembrance too.

If you are interested in volunteering, donating or want to find out more information about the Friends of the Angel go to www.friendsoftheangel.org.

To find out more information on regarding ordering bricks or the candlelight ceremony please go to www.maplegrovern.gov.

By Sue Drag - Founder and Former President





Christmas Memories – 1945

By Joyce (Scherber) Deane

As the crisp winter air arrives I find myself remembering some of my fondest childhood memories, many of which centered on the holidays.

While I was growing up, Osseo was still a small thriving town with everyone coming to shop from surrounding communities like Maple Grove. Every year beautiful garlands strung across Main Street heralded the arrival of the Christmas season. Christmas shopping began after Thanksgiving with the opening of “Toyland” in the basement of Marlin’s Store. The staircase was roped off until the magical moment arrived when all could descend to see the array of toys. Although the basement room (20’ x 40’) was not very large by today’s standards, to the eyes of a six year old, it was magnificent.

As children we were so excited to hear we would be attending Pete Iten’s Christmas Party in the Chevrolet garage. Located in the middle of town, on the east side of Main street, each Christmas the auto repair garage was transformed into our party room. Wooden benches were brought in and put in rows. All the children sat bundled up in their winter snowsuits while Christmas carols were sung. Santa arrived, checking to see who had been naughty or nice. Names were called, and presents were lowered on a rope from an office high above the area where we sat.

At one Christmas party, I received a doll with braids who I named Sally.. The doll provided hours of pretend for me and later for my daughters. After the shiny veneer of her face began to crack, and bits of her fingers and toes were lost, she was re-christened “Brittle.”

My brother, Jerry received a set of cap guns with genuine “leather” holsters. Before leaving, all the children received brown paper bags filled with salted in the shell peanuts and hard Christmas Candy. There was not near the number of children in the area then as there is now. However I find myself marveling at the generosity of Peter Iten in the ‘40s. He sponsored the entire party by himself.

The weeks leading up to Christmas bustled with activity. At school we rehearsed our lines for the Christmas program and learned to sing all the beautiful Christmas carols. Mother baked and decorated Christmas cookies; a tree was selected which Dad made into the

“perfect Christmas tree” by plugging in branches where none had grown. . On Christmas Eve we were sent to bed early. The tree was then decorated and presents were then wrapped. We were awakened at 11:00 p.m. to get ready for Midnight Mass. Presents from Santa magically arrived before Christmas Morning. After removing the sea of gift wrap, wondering how Santa knew just what Jerry, Buddy, Billy and I wanted , we sat down to enjoy our delicious Christmas Turkey dinner.



New dolls on displays at Museum



Do you remember your 1st Typewriter?



Santa's Escape by Pat Ruffing

On Christmas Eve 1976, when we still lived on Zealand Ave in Brooklyn Park, our family of four piled into our blue and white Chevy Impala, that we had loaded with Christmas presents and a homemade Santa suit, and headed northwest, via the fairly new I 94, to Albany, MN. Many of our children's Christmas Eve memories were created either in his sister's old farm house; or at John parent's equally old farm house in Adrian, MN. That year our oldest son was two, and we had a six month old baby girl.

On Christmas Eve, Seven Dolors Catholic Church had Mass at 5:00 pm. Grandpa Ruffing, John's sister's family totaling 7 persons and our son Jonathan piled into the green and white LTD Ford and off they went to the Church a mile or two away. The kids loved to go church and see the large Bethlehem manger scene in the front, near the altar, after the service.

Grandma Ruffing, John, our daughter Rebecca and I remained at the house. Grandma was preparing the meal, when we got the bright idea that Santa should arrive and leave a sack of presents on the front door step, as the family car was pulling up, and then disappear into the night. However, we didn't calculate that other families, lived along that same rural road, would probably be at the same church service and would be returning home also. Since we hadn't informed our brother-in-law of our plan, he may think the house was being robbed!

It was a very dark crisp winter evening, after the Church service, when a car turned onto Quaker Road, a short distance from the house. Santa, alias John, ran out of a nearby shed and fell on the icy driveway, while delivering the presents to the front door. The car continued on the

road. Darn! We didn't think to tell our brother- in- law to blink the car lights, so we would know they were arriving. The third time a car came, it turned into the driveway. Santa was spotted on his third trip out of the shed and unto the slippery driveway. Our son Jonathan and his two youngest cousins jumped out of the car screaming about Santa. Dave, our brother- in- law jumped out of the car and screamed about a burglar!

Santa Claus quickly dropped the sack of gifts on the front step, and attempted to escape into the barn. The kids pursued him. But suddenly they halted! They noticed a red blinking light in the night sky. "Oh!" They screamed, "There goes Rudolph's red nose! Santa must be flying in the Sleigh".

Santa escaped! The radio tower red light, continued to blink in the night sky that Christmas Eve. Santa removed his red suit in the barn and John returned to the house, to see what Santa had brought for the kids! (-Photo at Grandparent Ruffings House 1979)

MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove MN 55369-7064

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